



Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

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Plant of the night for February



Vandachostylis Ispbell's Burnished Gold

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Next Meeting:

March 21st from 7pm
Jonathan Clark on deflasking

Meeting Address:

Uniting Church Hall
13 Carrington Rd, Strathfield

Websites:

www.wsorchidsociety.com
www.flickr.com/photos/wsos/
www.orchids.org

Email:

enquiries@wsorchidsociety.com

Facebook:

Search for the group "Western Suburbs Orchid Society" and join

Submissions:

At meetings or via email to the Editor before the first Monday of the month.

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Editorial

Last month we started our new Growing Competition. Lots of people grabbed a plant so the race is officially on! There are still several plants available for anyone who missed out and we'll have some at the next meeting.

Coming up this month our own Jonathan Clark will be telling us all about deflasking Paphs. Deflasking is always a tricky business so it's worth knowing all the dos and don'ts. Come along and learn how it's done.

The latest COVID rules have been eased enough that masks are no longer required. You can of course still wear a mask if you want to.

We're still on the hunt for a new secretary. If you're able to help out I'm sure the whole Society would appreciate it. Please contact myself or Peter Meyer if you're interested, or even if you want to find out more about the role.

Here's a quick photo of my latest flowering. I won this plant in the WSOS raffle in December last year. This is the first flower open, and as you can see there are a couple more buds coming up behind it. There's also a second spike. It's quite a cutie, and I love the darker colours.

Cheers, Sam.



Sam's Miltonia moreliana x russelliana

Minutes of WSOS monthly meeting held on 21st February 2022

General Business:

- Happy New Year! And Year of the Tiger!
- COVID rules means that masks and social distancing are back on until end of February.
- Our shows for 2022 are booked at Ashfield Mall.
- Until we get a Secretary, please can someone help Sam out and do the typing of the minutes at meetings while she's trying to talk?
- Growing Comp plants were sold for \$12 each. Please see the Rules included with the February bulletin.

TONIGHT'S SUPPER: Thank you Peter McBryde

RAFFLE PRIZES: Dimitri Mitsios x2, Peter McBryde, John Costa, Frances Turner, and visitors Mitilly and Bevegah (apologies for the spelling)

BIRTHDAY RAFFLE: January = Frances Turner; February = Peter McBryde

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: Vandachostylis Ispbell's Burnished Gold by Dimitri Mitsios

Arthur's Notes

Number of exhibitors = 5

Number of plants exhibited = 24

Total views WSOS Flickr Photo Pages = 876684

Number of Photos on Flickr Photo Pages = 2777

Plant of the night was the lovely Vandachostylis Ispbell's Burnished Gold exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios.

Orchid Genera Name Abbreviations:

The Royal Horticultural Society has provided a list of orchid genera name abbreviations to save time and simplify the process of writing orchid names on tags or on entry forms for meetings or show judging. Here are a few from the judging results at the February meeting:

Van. Ispbell's Burnished Gold

Van. Is the RHS abbreviation of genera name Vandachostylis

Rly. Swan's Shy

Rly. Is the correct RHS abbreviation of genera name Rhyntonleya

Rth. Jungle Jumbalaya

Rth. Is the correct RHS abbreviation of genera name Rhyncattleanthe

Ctt. Rosella Fire

Ctt. Is the correct RHS abbreviation of genera name Cattlianthe

It's still fine to use the old genera abbreviations (Slc, Blc, etc), because the task of going through a big collection and fixing every tag is just enormous.

Google RHS "orchid genera abbreviations" to find the alphabetical list of standard abbreviations for natural and hybrid generic names. This list also provides the genera used in making complex hybrids, EG: Vandachostylis (Van.) = Rhynchostylis x Vanda.

Orchids Out West on 27-29th May at the Hawkesbury Race Club on Hawkesbury Valley Way, Clarendon.
St Ives Orchid Fair on 19-21st August at the St Ives Showground on Mona Vale Rd.

WSOS shows dates are confirmed as 25-28th August for our Winter Show and 20-23rd October for our Spring Show, both at Ashfield Mall.

Bankstown OS will be at the Easter Show, 12-13th and 18-19th April. They also have two shows planned:
19-22nd May at Chester Square shopping centre on Leicester St, Chester Hill.
14-17th July at Lidcombe shopping centre on Parramatta Rd, Lidcombe.

WSOS events for 2022:

Here's what we have planned for the year:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| March | Jonathan Clark on deflasking |
| April | Irene and Ian Chalmers on their watering system |
| May | Bob the Bark Man |
| June | Gary Hodder on Deciduous Dendrobiums |
| July | Orchid Auction |
| August | Talk on Cymbidiums (TBC) |
| September | Getting to Know You |
| October | AGM |
| November | Talk for beginners (TBC) |
| December | Christmas Party |

We're always open to suggestions so if anyone has any ideas for future events, please talk to a Committee member.



Dendrobium victoriae reginae 'Blue Bouquet'

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GROWING GUIDE FOR PAPHIOPEDILUMS

By Ray Clements

Paphiopedilums, more commonly known as Slipper Orchids, are shade loving plants from areas throughout Asia. They usually grow amongst rocks, moss and leaf litter in damp but well drained positions. Blooms are long lasting and are available in a range of colours. There are three main styles of flowers popular amongst growers. These are the complex hybrids which have large round flowers with broad segments and bloom during the winter. The second group are the maudiae types which have attractive tessellated leaves and smaller flowers. The third group are the multiflorals, sometimes with 4 or 5 flowers on a stem. They have long strap like green leaves and are the slowest to grow.

Temperature & Light. Slippers are generally tolerant of a broad range of temperatures, however protection from frosts is necessary, especially for the maudiae and multifloral types. They thrive in conditions soft ferns such as maidenhair enjoy. The multiflora group will enjoy a little brighter light than the other two groups.

Watering & Fertilising. Watering should be sufficient to keep the root system just damp. It is important to avoid over watering so even short dry periods are ok. The root system on Paphs can be easily damaged if the potting medium is old or the plants are overwatered. As a guide, water twice a week in summer and once a week in winter, depending on the weather of course. It is best to water during the morning in winter and evenings during summer. Try to avoid water lying on the leaves for lengthy periods. Include a balanced (flowering formula) fertiliser into the water at half the recommended strength, every second watering. A dusting of Dolomite occasionally will add calcium and help keep the media sweet.

Potting. A standard pot just big enough to contain the root system is adequate. Use a mix of large grade OrchidMate Coconut Husk Chips or pine bark with added perlite, styrene or charcoal. Media must be coarse enough to allow good drainage but still remain damp for a few days. As a guide, in a 150mm pot use 10-15mm bark.

Pests & Disease. Slippers appear resistant to orchid virus. Fungus can develop on the leaves or in the leaf axils, usually due to overwatering. Mealy bug can sometimes attack leaves and roots but is easily controlled with Rogor or similar. These plants are relatively pest free.



Paphiopedilum Lynleigh Koopowitz

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Bob the Bark Man

Bob will be visiting us at our May meeting. He will be bringing limited supplies with him. A copy of his catalogue will be available (for viewing only!) at the next meeting. If you really want some of his products then please order ahead of time and he will bring it with him in May. For those without email his prices are:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| Bark 2-3 to 8mm | 10 litre bag \$14 | 50 litre bag \$43 |
| Bark 3-8 to 20mm | 10 litre bag \$14 | 50 litre bag \$43 |
| Bark 4-20 to 25mm | 10 litre bag \$14 | 50 litre bag \$43 |
| Bark 4-25 to 50mm | Not available | 50 litre bag \$43 |
| Mix (small) of 70% bark; 15% 5mm charcoal; 15% coarse perlite | 10 litre bag \$15 | Not available |
| Mix (medium) of 70% bark; 15% 15mm charcoal; 15% super coarse perlite | 10 litre bag \$15 | Not available |
| Charcoal 5mm | 10 litre bag \$14 | 19kg bag \$47 |
| Charcoal 10mm | 10 litre bag \$14 | 19kg bag \$47 |
| Charcoal 15mm | 10 litre bag \$14 | 19kg bag \$47 |
| Charcoal 20mm | Not available | 19kg bag \$47 |
| Perlite super coarse | 10 litre bag \$11 | 100 litre bag \$49 |
| Perlite jumbo | 10 litre bag \$12 | 100 litre bag \$64 |

Gary's Wall

Gary told me he has aspirations of making a wall of flowers, and here's the beginnings of it. I hope we get to see more photos of its progress.

